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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Note verbale dated 6 May 1993 from the Permanent Mission of the Bahamas to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith a resolution issued by the Heads of Government of CARICOM, that is, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the United Nations would be grateful if you would have this note and the annex thereto circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 92 (a) of the preliminary list.

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Resolution on bananas issued by Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*

The Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM),

Having considered the decision of 12 February 1993 by the Council of Agriculture Ministers of the European Community on the marketing of banana in the European Community,

Recalling the importance of the banana industry to the economies of their member States particularly the countries of the Windward Islands, which are almost totally dependent on that industry,

Seized of the importance of the legally binding commitments contained in the Lomé Convention to the survival of the industry in these countries,

Noting that together the ACP States supply less than 20 per cent of the European Community banana market - their traditional market - and furthermore are minimal suppliers to the rest of the world,

Aware that the decision of the Agriculture Council of the European Community already constitutes a diminution of the access conditions guaranteed in the Lomé Convention,

Recognizing that the banana industry is also important to the economies of the countries of South and Central America,

Noting that Latin American banana exporters currently supply more than two thirds of the EC market and some 95 per cent of the global market,

Further noting that production and exports to European Community and other markets from South and Central America have increased significantly in recent years,

Endorse the international trend towards trade liberalization in goods and services;

Support the proposals made by the European Community with respect of the regime governing the imports of bananas into that market even while accepting that these proposals do not fully satisfy the guarantee enshrined in the Lomé IV Convention, its Protocols and Annexes;

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* This document, issued on 23 February 1993 under the symbol OEA/Ser.G, CP/doc. 2350/93, was presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.

Maintain that the decision of the European Community is in keeping with the spirit and principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which provides for the phased application of relevant measures to minimize dislocation especially in developing countries;

Caution that failure to accept the European Community proposals will certainly lead to economic disaster and social and political instability for the banana-exporting member States of the Caribbean Community;

Reaffirm the policy decisions of the Governments of the Caribbean Community to diversify their economies in order to reduce their dependence on the production of a limited number of commodities;

Urge concerned States to endorse the European Community proposals as the means which will most effectively balance the legitimate interests of all the parties;

Further urge all Contracting Parties to GATT to support the European Community Proposals.